

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/S:F.WISNER:MEM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 202262

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 205562 ACTION USDEL SECRETARY 27 AUG 77

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 205562 TOSEC 090194

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS:JTRATTNER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS, R.)

SUBJECT: ARTICLE IN BOSTON HERALD - NO. 18

HEREWITH FULL TEXT OF JOHN WALLACH ARTICLE 8/26:

COMMUNIST CHINA FOR FIRST TIME IN POSTWAR HISTORY HAS
SHOWN "SOME FLEXIBILITY" ON CONTROVERSIAL TAIWAN ISSUE, SE-
NIOR NSC OFFICIALS DISCLOSED YESTERDAY.

THEY SAID THIS MAY MEAN CHINESE ARE WILLING TO SETTLE THEIR
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DIFFERENCES WITH TAIWAN THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS.

OFFICIALS EXPLAINED THAT ON BASIS OF CABLE REPORTS FROM SEC-
STATE VANCE IT THUS MAY BE POSSIBLE TO DEVISE A FORMULA UN-
DER WHICH CHINA WOULD IMPLICITLY FORSWEAR USE OF FORCE A"
GAINST TAIWAN AND ACQUIESCE IN SALE OF SOPHISTICATED US ARMS
TO NATIONALIST GOVT.

ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD REMOVE THE MAJOR OBSTACLES TO ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING, PRES CARTER WAS DESCRIBED AS IN "NO RUSH" TO TAKE ANY NEW INITIATIVES THAT MIGHT ENDANGER SENATE RATIFICATION OF PANAMA CANAL TREATY.

BUT THERE WAS UNMISTAKABLE EXCITEMENT AT NSC YESTERDAY AFTER BRZEZINSKI, CARTER'S TOP WHITE HOUSE FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER, BRIEFED STAFFERS ON CONTENTS OF VANCE CABLES.

PEKING GOVT. NEVER BEFORE HAS INDICATED EVEN SLIGHTEST WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE OVER TAIWAN, INSISTING THAT ISLAND FORTRESS IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF CHINA AND RESERVING RIGHT TO USE ANY MEANS, INCLUDING MILITARY FORCE, TO "LIBERATE" TAIWAN.

CHINA HAS ALSO STEADFASTLY REFUSED TO ESTABLISH FORMAL TIES OR SEND HIGH OFFICIALS HERE UNTIL US BREAKS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN, WITHDRAWS ITS REMAINING 1400 TROOPS FROM ISLAND AND ABROGATES 1954 MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY.

CARTER, AS NIXON AND FORD BEFORE HIM, WAS WILLING TO CONSIDER BREAKING TIES WITH TAIWAN BUT ONLY ON BASIS OF A PLEDGE THAT CHINA WOULD NOT ATTACK THE ISLAND REPUBLIC THAT LIES ONLY 110 MILES ACROSS TAIWAN STRAITS.
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A RECENT NSC PRM ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT VANCE MAKE CLEAR TO CHINESE LEADERS THAT US WOULD DO WHATEVER WAS REQUIRED TO ASSURE THAT TAIWAN REMAINED SECURE--BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND MILITARILY.

NSC CONCLUDED THAT AT LEAST AN IMPLICIT CHINESE PLEDGE TO RESOLVE TAIWAN CONTROVERSY PEACEFULLY WAS INDISPENSABLE IF CONGRESS WAS TO GO ALONG IN BREAKING FORMAL TIES WITH TAIWAN AND ESTABLISHING THEM WITH PEKING.

BUT SEVERAL NSC OFFICIALS SERIOUSLY DOUBTED CHINA WOULD COMMIT ITS LONG-STANDING PRINCIPLES AND BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A FORMULA FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT.

ONE SIGN THAT PEKING ALREADY IS TAKING A MORE TOLERANT ATTITUDE IS DISPATCH OF TOP US CHINA AIDE HOLBROOKE TO BRIEF TAIWANESE OFFICIALS. HOLBROOKE IS FLYING DIRECTLY FROM PEKING VIA TOKYO TO THE ISLAND REPUBLIC.

MERE FACT THAT CHINA WOULD COUNTENANCE SUCH A SENIOR VANCE AIDE FLYING DIRECTLY TO TAIWAN AFTER CHINA TALKS IS UNPRE-

CEDENTED. HOLBROOKE IS ASSISTANT SECSTATE FOR EA.

ANOTHER INDICATION OF PROBABLE BREAKTHROUGH WAS STATEMENT BY WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN POWELL THAT PRES "IS IMPRESSED WITH THE REPORTS HE HAS RECEIVED ON DEPTH OF DISCUSSIONS . . . AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE DISPLAYED BY CHINESE OFFICIALS."

THIS IS FIRST TIME THE TERM "CONSTRUCTIVE" HAS BEEN USED TO REFER TO US-CHINESE NEGOTIATIONS OVER TAIWAN.

NSC OFFICIALS EXPLAINED THAT VANCE HAD DELIBERATELY DOWNPLAYED PROSPECTS FOR A BREAKTHROUGH BECAUSE OF EXAGGERATED PREDICTIONS ON HIS PREVIOUS TRIPS TO MIDEAST AND RUSSIA.
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THEY SEEMED PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT VANCE HAD ACHIEVED SOME SUCCESS IN THIS, HIS THIRD MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVE.

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